

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 25-67, 73, 82, 83 and 86-89, amend claims 5, 69, 71, 74-81 and 84, and add claims 90-94, as set forth below.

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A client/server network of computers programmed for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the client/server network comprising:

at least one server containing a database; and

a plurality of clients including participant workstations and at least one moderator workstation,

each participant workstation programmed to provide a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device, and each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images that are then included in the participant work area, each participant workstation being programmed to send data structures defining participant images to the database on the at least one server and to retrieve moderator images from the database and include them in the participant work area;

~~a moderator workstation,~~

each moderator workstation programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at least one moderator input-device, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to create data structures defining moderator images that are then included on the moderator work area, the moderator workstation programmed to send the data structures defining the moderator images to the database on the at least one server, wherein the data structures are stored in the database, and to retrieve participant images from the database from any selected one of the plurality of participant work areas and include the selected participant images on the moderator work area.

~~create data structures defining moderator images that are then included on the moderator work area and sent to the database on the at least one server, and select moderator images that are then sent from the at least one server and included on each of the plurality of participant work areas; wherein the moderator input device is further adapted to retrieve participant images from the database on the at least one server from any selected one of the plurality of participant work areas and include the selected participant images on the moderator work area.~~

6. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein the moderator work area comprises a main layer, a moderator layer, a first participant layer, and a background layer.

7. (Original) The network of claim 6, wherein each participant's work station displays a participant's main layer, the participant's main layer being a composite of the moderator layer, the background layer, a second participant layer.

8. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein the network can be used in a group mode and a standalone mode.

9. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein the workstations are located such that a first user positioned to use a workstation and a second user positioned to use a different workstation can hear each other speak.

10. (Original) The network of claim 9, wherein every user positioned to use a workstation can hear every other user positioned to use any other workstation.

11. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein no user positioned to use a workstation can hear any other user positioned to use a different workstation.

12. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein images are organized in notebook data structures comprising at least one panel.

13. (Original) The network of claim 12, wherein the images are stored as at least one object in a single panel.

14. (Original) The network of claim 5, wherein images placed on a participant's work area at a participant workstation may be viewed only at that workstation unless an instruction to permit the images to be viewed from another workstation is given at the participant workstation providing the participant's work area.

15. (Original) The network of claim 14, wherein the instruction to permit the images to be viewed from another workstation actively causes data structures corresponding to the images to be transmitted to another workstation.

16. (Original) The network of claim 5, further comprising collision-correction functionality.

17. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the collision-correction functionality comprises functionality permitting toggling between a plurality of view modes.

18. (Original) The network of claim 16, wherein the collision-correction functionality comprises functionality permitting relocation of images on the participant work area.

19. (Original) The network of claim 18, wherein the relocation of images occurs automatically when a collision occurs.

20. (Original) The network of claim 5, further comprising collision-avoidance functionality.

21. (Original) The network of claim 20, wherein the collision-avoidance functionality comprises a margin that does not have a corresponding location of the shared work area.

22. (Original) The network of claim 20, wherein the collision-avoidance functionality comprises functionality that permits the participant to place footnote images on the participant work area that provide a link between the footnote images and corresponding images placed on a portion of the participant work area that is not superimposed on the shared work area.

23. (Original) The network of claim 20, wherein the collision-avoidance functionality comprises functionality that permits the participant to place footnote images in the participant public work area, the footnote images providing a link to corresponding images located elsewhere.

24. (Original) The network of claim 23, wherein the participant work area comprises a virtual drawing surface, the virtual drawing surface comprising a main layer, a moderator layer, a background layer, and a participant layer having a margin that does not overlap with either of the moderator layer and the background layer, wherein the corresponding images are placed on the margin on the participant layer.

25-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously presented) A network of computers programmed for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the network comprising:

at least one server containing a database;

a plurality of participant workstations, each programmed to provide a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device, each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images that are then included on the participant work area;

a moderator workstation, programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at least one moderator input-device, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to:

create data structures defining moderator images that are then included on the moderator work area, and
select moderator images that are then simultaneously included on each of the plurality of participant work areas; and
collision-avoidance functionality that permits a participant to place footnote images on the participant work area that provide a link between the footnote images and corresponding images located elsewhere;
wherein the data structures are stored in the database;
wherein the moderator work area comprises a main layer, a moderator layer, a participant layer, and a background layer;
wherein each participant work area comprises:
a main layer;
a participant layer;
a moderator layer common to the moderator work area; and
a background layer common to the moderator work area;
wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select participant layers from any of the plurality of participant work areas that are then copied to the participant layer on the moderator's virtual drawing surface; and
wherein a participant layer may only be selected to be copied to the participant layer on the moderator's virtual drawing surface after an instruction has been given at the participant workstation upon which the participant layer resides.

69. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 68, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising collision-correction functionality ~~comprises functionality~~ permitting toggling between a plurality of view modes.

70. (Original) The network of claim 69, wherein the plurality of view modes includes at least one member from the set consisting of:

- a) a mode in which the moderator layer is displayed;
- b) a mode in which the background layer is displayed;
- c) a mode in which the participant layer is displayed.

71. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 68, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising collision-correction functionality ~~comprises functionality~~ permitting relocation of images on the participant work area.

72. (Original) The network of claim 71, wherein the relocation of images occurs automatically when a collision occurs.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 68 ~~[[73]]~~, wherein the collision-avoidance functionality comprises a margin in the participant layer that does not overlap with either the moderator layer or the background layer.

75. (Currently Amended) A client/server method of facilitating knowledge transfer in a group setting, comprising:

providing at least one server containing a database;

connecting the at least one server to a plurality of clients including participant workstations and at least one moderator workstation, each participant workstation comprising:

at least one participant display device;

at least one participant input device; and

a participant virtual drawing surface,

the at least one participant input device being adapted to permit the participant to create data structures defining images on the participant virtual drawing surface that are displayed on the at least one participant display device;

~~connecting the at least one server to a moderator workstation comprising:~~

each moderator workstation comprising:

at least one moderator display device;

at least one moderator input-device; and

a moderator virtual drawing surface,

the at least one moderator input device being adapted to create data structures defining images on the moderator virtual drawing surface that are displayed on the at least one moderator display device and on each of the participant display devices;

sending data structures from the moderator workstation to the database on the at least one server and therefrom to the participant workstations for display on the participant display devices; and

sending data structures from participant workstations to the database on the at least one server and therefrom to the moderator workstation.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 75, wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select images on any of the plurality of participant ~~layers~~ virtual drawing surfaces that are then copied to the ~~participant layer~~ of moderator virtual drawing surface.

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 76, further comprising the step of making a recording with at least one member of the set consisting of a video recording device and an audio recording device.

78. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 76, wherein a session can be replayed on the moderator display device and on each of the at least one participant display devices by adding images corresponding to the data structures to a composite image in the order the data structures were created.

79. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 78, further comprising the step of making a recording with at least one member of the set consisting of a video recording device and an audio recording device.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 79, wherein the images corresponding to the data structures can be added to the composite image one at a time in response to an instruction.

81. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 79, ~~further comprising:~~
wherein a recording is played back with at least one member of the set consisting
of a video playback device and an audio playback device; and
wherein a recording can be played back on the member of the set in
synchronization with the data structures, such that the images
corresponding to the data structures are added to the composite image at
points in time corresponding to the points in the recording where the data
structures were created.

82. (Cancelled)

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) An interactive learning method facilitating multiple
synchronous class sessions, comprising:
providing a client/server architecture including at least one server containing a database;
connecting the at least one server to a plurality of student workstations and an associated
teacher workstation in each of a plurality of classes, each student workstation comprising:
at least one student display device;
at least one student input device; and
a student virtual drawing surface,
the at least one student input device being adapted to permit the student to create
data structures defining images on the student virtual drawing surface that
are displayed on the at least one student display device;
~~connecting the at least one server to a teacher workstation~~ each teacher workstation
comprising:
at least one teacher display device;
at least one teacher input-device; and
a teacher virtual drawing surface,

the at least one teacher input device being adapted to create data structures defining images on the teacher virtual drawing surface that are displayed on the at least one teacher display device;

sending data structures from the teacher workstation in each class to the database on the at least one server and therefrom to the student workstations in the respective classes for display on the student display devices; and

sending data structures from student workstations in each class to the database on the at least one server and therefrom to the respective teacher ~~workstation~~ workstations.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, wherein each virtual drawing surface comprises a teacher layer, a student input layer, and a background layer containing at least one object.

86-89. (Cancelled)

90. (New) The client/server network of claim 5, wherein the plurality of clients includes student workstations and an associated teacher workstation in each of a plurality of classrooms, each workstation connected to the at least one server, whereby multiple classroom sessions may be conducted simultaneously via the server.

91. (New) The client/server network of claim 5, wherein said participant workstations include moderator functionality allowing the participants to add images to the moderator work area, whereby multiple users may concurrently serve as moderators making changes to the content of the moderator work area.

92. (New) The client/server network of claim 5, wherein each participant workstation is programmed to synchronize with an ongoing session by retrieving from the database all moderator images created during the session before the participant joined the session.

93. (New) The interactive learning method of claim 84, wherein the student workstations include moderator functionality allowing the students to add images to the teacher

virtual drawing surface, whereby multiple users may concurrently serve as moderators making changes to the content of the teacher virtual drawing surface.

94. (New) The interactive learning method of claim 84, wherein each student workstation is programmed to synchronize with an ongoing session by retrieving from the database all images created by the teacher during the session before the student joined the session.